

DOCUMENT

IN RELATION

*To the mode of lighting, and the general management of the light-houses,
light-ships, &c. of the United States.*

JULY 7, 1838.

Ordered to be printed.

The subscribers, a committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce at a regular meeting held on the 5th ultimo, to examine certain documents and reports made to the Senate of the United States relative to the mode of lighting, and of the general management of the light-houses and light-ships, &c. of the United States, beg leave to report :

That, from a careful examination of these reports, and from the evidence furnished by the testimonials of shipmasters, inspectors of insurance companies, and others well acquainted with the subject, they are satisfied that the mode of lighting and the general management of the light-house establishments of Great Britain and France are greatly superior to those of the United States.

That it also appears that various alterations in changing fixed lights to revolving ones, and in altering the position of light-ships, have been made; that new light-houses also have been built and lighted, and, in some cases, no previous notice given, contrary to the practice of other maritime countries; and it is the opinion of your committee that many losses have taken place and ships frequently been endangered for the want of such notices.

That, in the opinion of your committee, it should be made imperative on the superintendent of lights to give through our consuls abroad, and by every practicable means in his power, as long previous notice as possible, when the erection of any new light-house or any change in the mode of lighting is determined on.

That the report made to the Senate of the United States is favorable to the adoption of a plan for the improvement of the present light-house system. In this report it is recommended that naval officers be appointed to make the necessary surveys and examinations, and to report what improvements, in their judgment, are necessary; and it also further recommends that two sets of lights of the most improved construction be imported and placed in such situations as that they may be compared most effectually with those now in use.

The committee, therefore, recommend the following :

Resolved, That, in the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce, some alteration in the mode of lighting and of managing the light-houses, light-
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ships, &c. of the United States is necessary; they approve of the report submitted to the Senate by the Committees on Commerce on this subject, and of the recommendations contained therein.

Resolved, That a copy of the above resolution be forwarded to the chairmen of the Committee on Commerce of both Houses.

ARCH. GRACIE,
HENRY W. HICKS,
MOSES GRINNELL.

The undersigned, a committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce at a public meeting held on the 10th inst. to examine certain documents and reports made to the Senate of the United States relative to the mode of lighting, and of the general management of the light-houses and light-ships, &c. of the United States, beg leave to report:

That, from a careful examination of these reports and from the evidence furnished by the testimony of shipmasters, inspectors of insurance companies, and others well acquainted with the subject, they are satisfied that the mode of lighting and the general management of the light-houses and light-ships of Great Britain and France are greatly superior to those of the United States.

That it also appears that various alterations in existing laws relating to revolving ones, and in altering the position of light-signals, have been made; that light-ships have been built and improved; and in some cases, no previous notice being necessary to the practice of other nations, some of your committee that many losses have taken place and ships frequently been endangered for the want of such notices. That in the opinion of your committee, it should be made imperative on the establishment of lights to give through our channels, and by every practicable means in his power, as long previous notice as possible when the erection of new light-houses or any change in the mode of lighting is determined on.

That the report made to the Senate of the United States is favorable to the adoption of a plan for the improvement of the present light-house system. In this report it is recommended that naval officers be appointed to make the necessary surveys and examinations and to report when approved to their respective committees; and it also further recommends that two sets of the most improved construction be imported and placed in each station, so that they may be completed most effectually with those now in use.

The committee therefore recommend the following:
Resolved, That in the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce, some alterations in the mode of lighting and of managing the light-houses, light-